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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 58 NUMBER 24

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JUNE 13, 1949

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

The 1949 acreage planted to rice in Italy is estimated at approximately 325,000 acres, a decrease of 8 percent from the area planted a year earlier. The reduction in this year's acreage is attributed to the non-disposal of the rice surplus from the 1948 crop at satisfactory prices and to drought conditions in the first months of 1949. Heavy rains in late April have benefited the rice crop, whose general condition is estimated as better than at the same period of last year.

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The Cuban rice market became moderately active during May with Habana brokers reporting about 23 million pounds sold during the first 4 weeks, as compared with about 3 million pounds during all of April. Increased sales reportedly have been brought about by reports that the 1949 United States rice crop will be late. Brokers report that demand is strong for Rexora and Blue Bonnet, but claim that it is becoming increasingly difficult to procure these varieties in the United States.

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Much larger supplies of fats and tallow are available in France as a result of the de-rationing of meat. Present raw material stocks for the production of soap are adequate.

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Frost damage to fruit crops in the United Kingdom during the latter part of May is not yet apparent but apple prospects are exceedingly good. Apples have blossomed and fruits are setting well. The early plum crop, especially Victoria plums, has been damaged and the crop may not be as heavy as last year. The cherry crop will probably be average. The soft fruit crops, except black currants, which suffered from cold winds, frost and lack of rain, are progressing normally. Strawberries have benefited from recent rains.

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(Continued on Page 590)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains for dissemination and other related activities. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD 1948-49 SUGAR PRODUCTION UP 8 PERCENT

World production of beet and cane sugar for the 1948-49 season is now estimated at 37,300,000 short tons (raw value), 8 percent more than the 34,485,000 tons (revised) produced in 1947-48 and 7 percent more than the 5-year (1935-39) average of 34,710,000 tons.

Major increases in Mexico, Puerto Rico, the British West Indies, Europe generally, the U.S.S.R., Pakistan, the Philippines, Formosa, Java, the Union of South Africa, Australia and Hawaii more than offset important decreases in the United States, Cuba and India. The world output (considering the production in India and Pakistan in terms of gur) is the largest on record and compares with the previous high produced in the 1939-40 season of 36,238,000 short tons. The large crop this season is notable because 3 important exporting areas, the Philippines, Formosa and Java, have not yet reached prewar levels.

World beet sugar production in 1948-49 totaled 11,081,000 short tons compared with 8,790,000 tons in 1947-48 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 12,025,000 tons. The increases in Europe, the U.S.S.R. and Turkey more than offset a decrease in the United States. Beet sugar production has recovered sharply from the recent low level of 6,608,000 tons produced in 1945-46, but still is substantially below the record high of 12,912,000 tons produced in 1930-31.

World cane sugar production is indicated to have reached a new-record high level of 26,219,000 short tons in 1948-49, and will exceed the previous high record of 25,695,000 tons in 1947-48 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 22,685,000 tons. Major increases in Puerto Rico, the British Colonies, the Philippines, Formosa, Java, Pakistan, the Union of South Africa and Australia more than offset a decrease in Cuba and India this season as compared with last season.

In North and Central America, including the West Indies, present indications point to a total production of 11,285,000 short tons compared with 11,987,000 tons in 1947-48 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 7,801,000 tons. In Mexico and some of the Central American and West Indian areas sugar production is expected to reach new-high record levels in 1948-49 but decreases are expected in the United States and Cuba. The British West Indies and Puerto Rico particularly have large outputs this season. In the United States the production of cane sugar was up but the output of beet sugar was sharply down. The Cuban cane crop benefited from good early growing weather but later this was offset by some hurricane damage and drought. The decrease in production from 6,675,000 to 5,800,000 tons was also partly due to a smaller acreage available for harvest than in 1947-48.

The European sugar beet acreage was increased materially in 1948 and growing conditions were much improved over those of 1947. Consequently there was a sharp recovery in beet sugar production over the levels of the last few years. For Europe as a whole (excluding the U.S.S.R)

SUGAR (raw value): Production in specified countries 1/
averages 1930-34, 1935-39, and annual 1945-48

Countries by continent	Average		1945	1946	1947	1948 2/
	1930-34	1935-39				
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
NORTH AMERICA (cane)						
British Honduras	0	1	1	1	1	1
Canada (beet)	66	76	88	115	87	97
Costa Rica	7	9	9	17	23	23
El Salvador	23	19	22	32	30	25
Guatemala	38	38	64	68	60	65
Honduras	1	2	2	2	2	4
Mexico	268	364	444	578	714	818
Nicaragua	6	9	17	17	20	22
Panama, incl. Canal Zone	3	5	7	9	12	14
United States (beet)	1,396	1,520	1,278	1,523	1,835	1,369
United States (cane)	236	474	475	425	376	477
Caribbean:						
Antigua	19	25	30	25	14	18
Barbados	90	133	127	99	65	140
Cuba	2,847	3,183	4,476	6,448	6,675	5,800
Dominican Republic	439	491	504	512	465	509
Grenada	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guadeloupe	40	53	33	34	30	40
Haiti	28	44	44	50	47	53
Jamaica	69	119	199	191	216	263
Martinique	49	62	26	38	22	43
Puerto Rico	894	974	909	1,088	1,108	1,275
St. Kitts	25	36	36	38	36	36
St. Lucia and St. Vincent	6	9	8	8	14	13
Trinidad and Tobago	121	148	123	123	130	175
Virgin Islands of the U.S.	3	6	5	3	4	4
Total NORTH AMERICA	6,675	7,801	8,928	11,445	11,987	11,285
EUROPE (beet)						
Austria	192	196	20	27	44	58
Belgium	278	259	155	258	153	295
Bulgaria	36	24	3/ 21	3/ 37	3/ 21	3/ 72
Czechoslovakia	806	721	493	651	387	686
Denmark	173	257	203	237	254	291
Eire	37	89	116	64	75	104
Finland	7	13	3/ 5	3/ 6	3/ 11	3/ 23
France	1,112	1,059	508	842	728	1,061
Germany	1,838	2,122	3/ 860	3/ 1,102	3/ 863	3/ 1,437
Hungary	158	139	8	74	171	255
Italy	397	416	21	301	262	502
Netherlands	262	255	66	273	246	311
Poland and Danzig	[illegible]	548	3/ 216	3/ 469	3/ 606	3/ 765
Rumania	[illegible]	129	3/ 38	3/ 39	3/ 90	3/ 125
Spain 4/	374	209	132	208	163	288
Sweden	252	340	309	302	267	321
Switzerland	8	12	31	24	26	30
United Kingdom	497	527	603	667	523	679
Yugoslavia	89	93	38	44	95	105
Total EUROPE (excl. USSR)	7,175	7,408	3,843	5,625	4,985	7,408
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) (beet) 5/	1,584	2,887	1,200	775	1,700	2,000
ASIA (cane)						
Iran (beet)	4	21	25	40	64	51
Turkey (beet)	41	75	118	118	118	145
Burma	6/	78	20	40	20	20
China	285	438	350	369	380	400
Manchuria (beet)	10	14	30	29	29	29
Formosa	889	1,202	95	38	328	625

SUGAR (raw value): Production in specified countries 1/
averages 1930-34, 1935-39, and annual 1945-48

Countries by continent	Average 1930-34	Average 1935-39	1945	1946	1947	1948 2/
	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
ASIA (Continued)						
French Indochina 7/	59	76	6	15	15	20
Pakistan 7/	658	799	972	954	989	1,100
India 7/	4,424	5,369	5,094	5,503	6,500	5,580
Japan 8/	134	167	50	10	20	20
Java and Madura 8/	1,731	1,447	22	25	100	300
Philippine Islands 10/	1,177	1,127	115	184	498	820
Total ASIA (excl. U.S.S.R.)	9,412	10,813	6,897	7,325	9,061	9,110
SOUTH AMERICA (cane)						
Argentina	381	480	495	700	668	623
Brazil	1,105	1,159	1,394	1,633	1,913	2,026
British Guiana	163	209	184	185	194	207
Colombia	32	47	95	97	127	146
Ecuador	22	24	38	39	40	51
Paraguay	7	7	9	21	18	14
Peru	441	448	438	476	549	540
Surinam	21	19	6	4	6	8
Uruguay (beet)	2	2	2	2	1	2
Venezuela	23	19	33	36	32	40
Total SOUTH AMERICA	2,197	2,414	2,694	3,193	3,548	3,657
AFRICA (cane)						
Belgian Congo	5	15	16	16	18	18
Kenya	(	(	9	7	12	16
Tanganyika	(30	(63	8	9	9	9
Uganda	(	(	51	55	68	85
Egypt	161	167	198	210	245	220
Madagascar	8	13	18	14	12	13
Madeira Islands and Azores	9	9	7	8	8	8
Mauritius	236	321	175	320	386	430
Mozambique	93	79	79	89	85	94
Angola	26	38	56	49	49	61
Reunion	64	92	27	58	95	86
Union of South Africa	366	498	553	475	512	608
Total AFRICA	998	1,295	1,197	1,310	1,499	1,648
OCEANIA (cane)						
Australia	667	894	746	619	678	1,057
Fiji	117	143	73	131	157	150
Hawaiian Islands	1,042	986	680	872	870	985
Japanese Mandated Islands	52	69	0	0	0	0
Total OCEANIA	1,878	2,092	1,499	1,622	1,705	2,192
Total (beet)	10,284	12,025	6,608	8,214	8,790	11,081
Total (cane)	19,635	22,685	19,650	23,081	25,695	26,219
World total (beet and cane)	29,919	34,710	26,258	31,295	34,485	37,300

1/ Years shown are for crop years; generally the harvesting season begins in the fall months of the year shown or in the early months of the following year, except in certain cane-sugar-producing countries in the Southern Hemisphere, such as Australia, Argentina, Mauritius, Union of South Africa, etc., where the season begins in May or June of the year shown. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Data not comparable with previous years because of boundary changes. 4/ Includes a small quantity of cane sugar. 5/ Includes Latvia and Lithuania. 6/ Included in India. 7/ Data are in terms of gur, a low grade of brown sugar. 8/ Includes cane and beet sugar. 9/ Data for Java are for the calendar years following the years shown. 10/ Includes centrifugal and muscovado sugar.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates of countries having boundary changes have been adjusted to prewar boundaries except as noted.

sugar production now is estimated at 7,408,000 short tons, or exactly the same as the 5-year (1935-39) average, and compares with 4,985,000 tons in 1947-48. Because of the favorable growing season, production in many countries reached prewar levels and in some exceeded it. Only in Austria and Germany was production substantially below prewar.

In the U.S.S.R., an increase in the acreage of sugar beets of about 19 percent was reported this season, which with slight improvement in yields, indicates a sugar production of 2,000,000 short tons. This is nearly one-fifth more than the 1,700,000 tons (revised) produced in 1947-48, but about 30 percent less than in prewar years. It is reported that much difficulty has been experienced during recent years in getting the beets harvested and to the factory for processing.

In some areas of Asia, sugar production continues to recover from the wartime low levels but there was a sharp decline in India. For the area as a whole, production in 1948-49 is estimated at 9,110,000 short tons compared with 9,061,000 tons in 1947-48 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 10,813,000 tons. Production in India, in terms of gur, is indicated to be about 1,000,000 tons less than the revised estimate for the previous season and is due largely to decreases in the acreage planted to sugarcane. In the 3 important exporting areas, the Philippines, Formosa and Java, production is indicated to have increased sharply this year, with the Philippines and Formosa making the greatest progress. In Java many difficulties have beset the sugar industry and recovery is rather slow. In Pakistan production in terms of gur shows a notable increase.

Sugar production in South America as a whole totaled 3,657,000 short tons in 1948-49 compared with 3,548,000 tons in 1947-48 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 2,414,000 tons. Small increases were quite general except for Argentina, Paraguay and Peru where small decreases occurred.

In Africa, sugar production is estimated at 1,648,000 short tons in 1948-49 compared with 1,499,000 tons in 1947-48 and the prewar average of 1,295,000 tons. British East Africa, the Union of South Africa, Mauritius and the Portuguese Colonies all had large crops this season. Production in Egypt declined slightly.

Australia produced a good cane crop in 1948 and production of sugar totaled 1,057,000 short tons or more than the prewar average. Hawaii also has excellent prospects, but labor difficulties may prevent a full harvest. Sugar production for Oceania as a whole is indicated at 2,192,000 tons compared with 1,705,000 tons in 1947-48 and the prewar average of 2,092,000 tons.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee has composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Gustave Burmeister, Lazar Volin, Constance H. Farnworth, Mary E. Long and Karen J. Friedmann.

WORLD HORSE NUMBERS INCREASE

World horse numbers in 1949, according to the latest available data, are estimated at 76 million head on the basis of information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This is a slight increase from a year earlier and 21 percent below the 1934-38 prewar average. Generally, horse numbers increased moderately in most of the war-devastated countries of the world and minor increases also occurred in the Near East and the Far East. Decreases, on the other hand, occurred in the more agriculturally developed countries of the world, primarily because of greater farm mechanization.

The increase in horse numbers in Eastern and Central Europe, the Soviet Union, the Near and Far East and South America more than offset the decline which occurred in North America and western, northern and southern Europe. The increases occurred mostly in areas of deficit draft power. In some countries, the lack of tractors, tractor parts for replacement and fuel and the shortage of dollar exchange for purchase of these items also have contributed to the increase. Exports from surplus countries have aided significantly in increasing numbers in some of these countries.

Horse numbers decreased chiefly in some of the North American and western, northern and southern European countries, as well as the Union of South Africa and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand), primarily because of increased use of tractors on farms. Some decrease can be attributed to the increased rate of slaughter for human consumption. Conservation of indigenous and imported feed for livestock other than horses has been another factor in the decline, particularly in western and northern and possibly southern Europe.

In Europe, horse numbers in Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands and Norway continue to exceed prewar levels. France, on the other hand, has not recovered from war and requisitioning losses. Increased mechanization and conservation of feed supplies preclude the return of numbers to prewar levels in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Sweden. Most of the other European countries are well below prewar. The Soviet Union, apparently, continues to be considerably below the 1934-38 level.

Some increase in horse numbers over prewar occurred in the Middle East, particularly in Turkey, Iran, and Iraq, and in the Far East some recovery has occurred in India, Japan and the Philippines. In Africa, the Union of South Africa continues its postwar decline, while French West Africa, Ethiopia and Algeria, principally, exceed their 1934-38 prewar level.

While in the United States and Canada horse numbers continue their postwar decline, Mexico appears to be the principal country in North America to increase its numbers. Amongst the South American countries, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay show a decline in numbers for the postwar

HORSES: Number in specified countries, average 1934-38, annual 1946-1949

Continent and country	Month of Estimate 1/	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	1948 2/	1949 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	June 1	2,864	2,200	2,032	1,905	-
Mexico	June	3/ 2,199	-	-	-	-
United States	Jan. 1	11,570	8,053	7,249	6,589	5,921
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	582	4/ 408	-	-	-
Estimated total		18,600	14,500	13,600	12,800	12,000
EUROPE						
Albania		64	52	-	-	-
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	5/6/ 261	264	274	283	284
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/ 245	297	304	288	265
Bulgaria 7/	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 532	520	549	-	-
Czechoslovakia 8/	Jan. 1	9/ 654	649	653	630	640
Denmark	July 15	553	653	601	574	-
Eire	June	429	452	438	421	-
Finland	Mar. 1	10/ 372	381	385	382	-
France	Fall 1/	2,808	2,257	2,354	2,407	2,418
Germany 11/	Dec. 1 1/	2,389	2,204	2,214	2,250	2,300
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	356	220	242	241	240
Hungary	Spring	803	401	464	516	600
Iceland	Spring	46	-	-	1/ 55	-
Italy	July	5/6/ 801	675	710	740	-
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	6/ 17	15	17	17	17
Netherlands	May	293	355	368	334	-
Norway	June 20	186	238	225	206	-
Poland 8/	June 30	6/ 3,149	1,811	2,016	2,300	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 90	-	-	-	-
Rumania 8/	Dec. 31 1/	12/ 1,581	857	-	939	-
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 808	554	-	-	600
Sweden	Summer	615	593	551	497	-
Switzerland	April	6/ 140	152	147	142	-
United Kingdom	June	1,107	834	778	703	-
Yugoslavia	Dec. 31 1/	1,212	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		19,500	15,300	15,700	16,100	16,400
Soviet Union 8/	Jan. 1	6/ 19,600	10,500	10,800	-	-
ASIA						
Iran	Mar. 21	9/ 328	-	350	350	-
Iraq		6/ 150	194	-	196	-
Syria	Dec. 31 1/	58	103	111	141	-
Turkey	Dec. 31 1/	9/ 915	977	1,037	1,066	1,100
Burma	Dec. 31 1/	57	-	11	11	12
China (22 provinces)	May	9/ 3,772	2,055	2,218	2,200	-
Manchuria and Jehol	Dec. 31 1/	9/ 1,948	1,750	-	-	-
Outer Mongolia		6/ 1,550	-	-	-	-
French Indochina		9/ 105	-	-	-	40

Continued---

HORSES: Number in specified countries,
average 1934-38, annual 1946-1949

Continent and country	Month of Estimate 1/	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	1948 2/	1949 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
ASIA (Continued)						
India	Dec. 31 1/	2,366	-	-	-	-
Japan	Dec. 31 1/	1,330	1,254	1,054	-	-
Netherland Indies	Dec. 31 1/	652	-	620	-	-
Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	6/ 340	-	176	-	250
Siam	Mar. 31	364	-	-	-	90
Estimated total		15,100	12,600	12,700	12,800	-
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	July 1	6/ 8,290	-	13/ 7,238	-	7,200
Brazil	Sept.	9/ 6,149	6,600	6,700	6,800	6,900
Chile	June 1	9/ 489	475	470	460	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	9/ 941	1,077	1,085	-	1,100
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	9/ 229	306	-	-	354
Peru		6/ 400	453	-	453	450
Uruguay	April	6/ 644	575	546	-	575
Estimated total		17,700	17,400	17,400	17,500	17,600
AFRICA						
Algeria	Nov. 1 1/	176	209	-	205	205
French Morocco 14/	Dec. 31 1/	216	214	155	155	160
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	108	102	85	-	85
Union of South Africa	Aug.	6/ 778	687	670	660	650
Estimated total		3,100	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
OCEANIA						
Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 1,761	1,265	1,195	1,165	1,140
New Zealand	Jan. 31	274	216	207	204	200
Estimated total		2,100	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,400
Estimated world total		95,700	75,600	75,400	75,700	76,000

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus, for Austria the December 3, 1945 estimate of 264,000 is shown under 1946. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of 1930 and 1940 censuses. 4/ Census, July 1, 1946. 5/ March. 6/ Census or estimate for single year. 7/ Includes Southern Dobrudja in postwar years. 8/ Present territory. 9/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 10/ September. 11/ Totals for 4 zones of occupation. 12/ Average for years 1930-39. 13/ Census May 10-12, 1947. 14/ Data include only number taxed.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, U.S. Foreign Service reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

WORK STOCK: Number in specified European and other countries, prewar average and 1946-1948

Continent and country	Month of estimate 1/	Horses, work 2/				Mules and asses				Oxen and work cows				Water buffaloes			
		Prewar average 3/	1946	1947	1948 4/	Prewar average 3/	1946	1947	1948 4/	Prewar average 3/	1946	1947	1948 4/	Prewar average 3/	1946	1947	1948 4/
		Thousands				Thousands				Thousands				Thousands			
NORTH AMERICA																	
Canada	June 1	5/ 2,457	5/ 2,044	5/ 1,912	5/ 1,813	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	July	73	-	-	-	37	-	-	1/ 61	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Mexico	June	6/ 2,199	-	-	-	3,084	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
United States	Jan. 1	5/ 10,373	5/ 7,522	5/ 6,812	5/ 6,206	4,621	3,010	2,772	2,541	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	-	8/ 326	-	-	79	8/ 37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic		6/ 273	143	-	-	191	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EUROPE																	
Albania		6/ 64	6/ 52	-	-	73	58	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	13	21	-	-
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	224	221	236	225	1	2	3	3	242	181	177	165	-	-	-	-
Belgium	Jan. 1	164	172	-	-	9/ 12	3	3	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria 10/	Dec. 31 1/	412	435	445	-	218	190	209	-	955	-	-	-	375	295	312	-
Czechoslovakia 11/	Jan. 1	546	-	492	-	1	2	2	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Denmark	July	425	458	440	423	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eire	June	327	355	350	340	168	137	127	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	Mar. 1	12/ 318	307	315	313	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	Fall 1/	2,314	1,747	1,823	1,860	331	186	206	189	13/ 1,041	13/ 1,075	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany-Bizone	Dec. 1 1/	975	-	-	1,100	2	-	-	5	1,653	1,814	1,841	1,686	-	-	-	-
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	180	110	126	130	567	448	490	504	483	-	-	342	58	54	59	59
Hungary	Spring	714	-	411	441	5	5	5	6	13/ 174	13/ 114	-	-	7	3	4	3
Iceland	Spring	14/ 34	-	14/ 41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	July	15/ 831	-	-	-	15/ 1,370	875	920	960	15/ 2,062	-	-	-	15/ 15	-	-	-
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	14/ 15	14/ 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	May	231	211	229	226	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	June 20	156	184	192	187	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poland 11/	June 30	2,562	-	1,626	-	-	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	14/ 71	-	-	-	397	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Rumania 11/	Dec. 31 1/	1,323	687	634	-	12	8	10	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	175	135	139	-
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	16/ 466	-	-	-	16/ 2,190	1,969	-	-	16/ 697	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	Summer	12/ 519	496	484	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switzerland	April	115	99	100	102	4	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	June	763	585	547	517	7	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yugoslavia	Dec. 31 1/	1,017	-	-	-	139	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	37	-	-	-

ASIA																	
Iran	Mar. 21	6/ 328	-	6/ 350	6/ 350	1,186	-	1,267	1,267	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	80	-
Iraq	Fall	6/ 150	6/ 194	-	6/ 196	380	487	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	90	133	-	-
Syria	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 58	6/ 103	6/ 111	6/ 141	149	240	281	277	7/	7/	7/	7/	4	5	5	-
Turkey	Dec. 31 1/	723	-	-	-	1,499	1,706	1,713	1,821	3,538	-	-	-	796	848	899	947
British Malaya		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	212	171	189	-
Burma	Dec. 31 1/	52	10	10	10	2	2	1	1	7/	7/	7/	7/	1,035	603	642	721
Ceylon	Dsc. 31 1/	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	514	557	593	624
China (22 provinces)	May	6/ 3,772	6/ 2,055	6/ 2,218	6/ 2,200	13,961	8,264	9,958	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	12,644	9,180	9,840	-
Manchuria and Jehol	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 1,948	6/ 1,750	-	-	1,295	1,380	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Formosa	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	298	-	-	-
French Indochina		6/ 105	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	1,912	-	-	1,275
India	Dec. 31 1/	1,409	-	-	-	2,052	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	44,216	-	-	-
Japan	Dec. 31 1/	991	-	921	906	-	-	-	-	1,495	2,072	1,830	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands Indies	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 652	-	6/ 620	-	-	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	3,219	-	2,732	-
Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	6/ 340	-	6/ 176	-	-	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	17/ 2,919	-	1,900	2,000
Siam	Mar. 31	6/ 364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	5,300	3,900	4,500	5,000
SOUTH AMERICA																	
Argentina	July 1	2,566	-	-	-	786	-	8/ 501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil	Sept.	6/ 6,149	6/ 6,600	6/ 6,700	6/ 6,800	3,489	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chile	June	6/ 489	6/ 475	5/ 470	6/ 460	93	-	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 941	6/ 1,077	6/ 1.085	-	760	728	-	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 229	5/ 306	-	-	15	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peru		6/ 400	6/ 453	-	6/ 453	407	472	-	472	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	April	530	485	-	-	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AFRICA																	
Algeria	Nov. 1 1/	-	169	-	170	527	575	-	538	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		6/ 23	-	-	6/ 20	371	-	-	500	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Egypt	Mar.	6/ 33	-	-	-	886	-	-	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	919	-	-	-
French Morocco 19/	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 216	6/ 214	6/ 155	6/ 155	845	934	676	674	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
French West Africa and Togo		6/ 183	-	-	-	449	520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	6/ 108	6/ 102	6/ 85	-	229	247	203	-	7/	7/	7/	7/	-	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	August	20/ 305	20/ 274	20/ 263	-	1,000	904	855	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OCEANIA																	
Australia	Mar. 1	6/ 1,761	6/ 1,265	6/ 1,195	6/ 1,165	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	Jan. 31	169	131	122	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ End of year sstimates (October to Decembsr) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus, for Austria the December 3, 1945 estimate of 221,000 is shown under 1946. 2/ Horsss 3 years of age and over. 3/ Averages for years 1934-38, or years available in that period. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ 2 years of ags and over. 6/ Total number of horses; classification by age groups unavailable. 7/ Oxen, and to some extent cows, are of importance as a source of draft power, but statistics are unavailable. 8/ Census, July 1, 1946. 9/ Dscember 31, 1929. 10/ Includes Southern Dobrudja in postwar ysars. 11/ Present territory. 12/ September. 13/ Excludes work cows, for which statistics are unavailable. 14/ 4 years of age and over. 15/ Census, March 19, 1930. 16/ May, 1933. 17/ Census, January 1, 1939. 18/ Census, May 10-12, 1947. 19/ Number taxed only. 20/ Number owned by Europeans only.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, U.S. Foreign Service reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.

period, but numbers in Brazil, Colombia and Paraguay, chiefly, exceed their 1934-38 prewar level. In Oceania, both Australia and New Zealand continue their postwar decline and like the United States and Canada are considerably below their prewar levels.

It is probable that horse numbers in the world will not rise materially above the 1948 numbers, while numbers in mechanized and semi-mechanized areas are likely to continue downward. On the other hand, it can be expected that numbers in the Soviet Union, eastern Europe, Asia, and some of the African countries will continue upward.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world livestock statistics, approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman; Elmer A. Reese, Hazel B. Kefauver, Mary E. Long, and C. S. Stephanides.

WORLD 1948-49 BEAN PRODUCTION LARGER THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED

Revised estimates of 1948-49 bean production in 13 foreign countries indicate that the world crop was 17 percent above prewar instead of 11 percent which was the estimate based on preliminary reports last December.

In the world bean summary published in Foreign Crops and Markets, December 20, 1948, the aggregate crop in 48 countries was estimated at 93 million bags as compared to 84 million bags prewar. The revised estimates aggregate 98 million bags for the 48 countries.

The major revision occurred in Brazil where a very sizeable increase of production was recently reported. In fact, both acreage and production figures were revised by Brazil for several years back as follows:

Years	1,000 acres	1,000 bags of 100 lbs.
Average 1935-39	2,354	18,160
1946	3,466	22,510
1947	3,528	22,190
1948	3,871	25,330
1949	---	26,455

The 1949 figure released last December was a forecast of production yet unharvested and at that time only partially planted. This figure is still preliminary including as it must, a forecast of the second crop grown in southern Brazil. This second crop is still unharvested.

Much of the increase reported from Brazil occurred in the northern areas which heretofore have not produced enough beans to meet the needs of local consumption. Local needs in the past have been met by shipments from the surplus producing areas of southern Brazil. This increase toward self-sufficiency in the north may result in greater surplus being available for export to foreign countries from southern Brazil. However, most of the beans produced in Brazil are not the classes in demand in the major foreign market. It is estimated that only one-half of 1 percent of Brazilian beans are white, 65 percent are black and 34½ percent are brown or spotted. Brazil has never been an important bean exporter. Large quantities are consumed locally, as beans are a staple item of diet for most of the population. During the war Brazil did ship a large tonnage under the UNRRA program, but in so doing ran short of supplies in the domestic market.

Chile and Argentina are much more important than Brazil in the international bean trade, although they produce much smaller total crops. During 1947 and also 1948, Chile exported about 750 thousand bags of mostly white and red beans. These beans are similar to the more popular white and red beans produced in the United States. Argentina in recent years has exported 250 to 500 thousand bags of white beans.

Revised estimates of production from both of these countries are considerably lower than the forecast released last December. The Argentina estimate of 550,000 bags is much lower than the December estimate and 35 percent less than the 1947-48 crop of 740,000 bags. It is the smallest crop since 1942-43. The decline is associated with smaller plantings and unfavorable weather.

The Chilean estimate of 1,430,000 bags is 100,000 bags smaller than the December estimate, 8 percent smaller than the 1947-48 crop, and 18 percent less than the prewar average. The decline was due to reduced acreage and only fair growing conditions with some damage by weevil and other insects.

The net result of revised production estimates in these Latin American countries may actually result in a decline of exportable supplies, despite the upward revision of production estimates from Brazil. (For additional information on the exportable supply in Chile see the May 30, 1949 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.)

In Europe, the major bean importing area of the world, the revised production figures reflect a net decline from the December estimate. This decline, however, like the large increase in Brazil is largely local. The major decrease occurred in Italy. There the latest estimate was almost 600,000 bags less than the estimate released last December. The revised figure of 3.5 million bags is 7 percent less than the prewar production of 3.7 million bags, but 21 percent above the very low production of 1947.

BEANS: Revised estimates of 1948-49 production in selected countries

Country	Published December 1948	Revised June 1949
	Thousands (100 pounds bags)	
Dominican Republic....	320	420
Austria..............	60	155
Czechoslovakia........	97	130
France...............	1,962	2,030
Greece...............	567	586
Italy................	4,090	3,500
Netherlands....	124	132
Argentina............	800	550
Brazil...............	21,000	25,330
Chile................	1,530	1,430
Venezuela............	820	1,100
Madagascar...........	562	695
Union of South Africa.	680	535

Most of the revisions reported by European countries other than Italy were upward from the December estimates. But none of them except Italy constituted important changes and even in the aggregate they did not equal the decline of estimate from Italy. The net result is that instead of the 1948-49 crop in Europe as a whole being 12 percent below prewar, as reported last December, it is now estimated at 14 percent below.

As pointed out in the December report, the decline of bean production from prewar, together with a 10 percent increase of population, means that the bean supplies in Europe without imports from outside Europe would be about 20 percent below prewar standards. On the basis of the revised production figures the shortage would be nearer 25 percent below prewar.

There is still no indication, however, that the European market will take in the near future any substantial portion of the surpluses of beans existing in the United States. Exchange difficulties still exist and European governments seem to prefer to use their dollar exchange for purchase of commodities other than pulses despite apparent local shortages of the latter.

Other revisions of the 1948-49 bean crop, of relatively minor importance, will be included in the 1949-50 summary scheduled for publication in Foreign Crops and Markets in November.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCO

SWITZERLAND'S FOREIGN TRADE IN TOBACCO INCREASES

Switzerland's imports of leaf tobacco were the largest in many years and exports of manufactured tobacco products reached record levels in 1948, according to the American Consulate in Zurich.

Leaf imports into Switzerland in 1948 totaled 23 million pounds, as compared with 22.3 million pounds in 1947 and a 1936-40 annual average of 16.1 million pounds. The United States was the chief source of supply in 1948 supplying 11.8 million pounds, or about 51 percent of the country's total leaf imports. This amount compares with 10.7 million pounds, or 48 percent in 1947 and an annual average of 6.3 million pounds, or 39 percent in the 1936-40 period. The 1948 imports from Brazil, Switzerland's second most important source of supply, totaled 4.5 million pounds, or about 20 percent of the country's total leaf imports, as compared with 21 percent in 1947 and 16 percent in the 1936-40 period. Other countries supplying substantial quantities of leaf in 1948 include Indonesia, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Argentina and the Dominican Republic.

SWITZERLAND: Imports of leaf tobacco, 1948 with comparisons

Country of Origin	Average 1936-40	1946	1947	1948
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
United States	6,307	8,263	10,670	11,823
Brazil	2,661	4,259	4,678	4,508
Indonesia	2,430	558	582	648
Greece	1,001	223	769	968
Dominican Republic	720	1,194	1,356	1,149
Argentina	179	995	990	816
Turkey	363	1,616	1,585	1,537
Bulgaria	353	448	399	419
Other countries	2,119	1,776	1,224	1,130
Total	16,133	19,332	22,253	22,998

Swiss Federal Statistical Office

Switzerland's imports of manufactured tobacco products totaled 464,300 pounds in 1948, as compared with 537,700 pounds in 1947 and an annual average of about 179,500 pounds in the 1936-40 period. Imports of United States cigarettes in 1948 totaled 339,000 pounds, or 63 percent of the total imports of manufactured tobacco products. Cigarettes from the United Kingdom, cigars from Brazil and Cuba and pipe tobacco from the United Kingdom and the United States comprised the bulk of the remaining imports.

The country's exports of manufactured tobacco products totaled 4.6 million pounds in 1948, as compared with 2.2 million pounds in 1947 and an annual average of slightly over 1 million pounds in the 1936-40 period. Cigarette exports in 1948 totaled 3.8 million pounds, or 82 percent of the total exports of manufactured tobacco products, as compared with 1.6 million pounds, or 72 percent in 1947 and an annual, 1936-40, average of about 710,800 pounds or 69 percent.

Other exports in 1948 included 409,600 pounds of pipe tobacco, 74,500 pounds of cigars and 324,000 pounds of tobacco extract. Italy took 4.1 million pounds, or 90 percent of Switzerland's total exports of manufactured tobacco products, while Germany and Austria took most of the remaining exports. Switzerland exported no leaf tobacco in 1948.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC REDUCES TOBACCO EXPORT TAX

The Dominican Republic reduced export duties on leaf tobacco by 40 percent effective May 22, 1949, according to the American Embassy in Ciudad Trujillo.

The new rate is 2.70 pesos per 100 kilograms (1.2 cents per pound), as compared with the previous rate of 4.53 pesos per 100 kilograms (2.1 cent per pound) which was set by law No. 1978 of April 28, 1949. Prior to April 28 a 5 percent ad valorem tax and several minor taxes were collected on Dominican leaf tobacco exports.

The export tax rate was lowered because of the low prices which prevail for Dominican leaf this season. When the harvests began in April, prices to growers ranged from 6 to 8 pesos per 60 kilograms (4.5 to 6.0 cents per pound), but when the higher tax rate went into effect in April prices fell to levels ranging from 4 to 6 pesos per 60 kilograms (3.0 to 4.5 cents per pound). Prices so far this season have averaged about 50 percent below 1947-48 prices.

POLAND PLANS INCREASE IN TOBACCO ACREAGE

Poland plans to plant 36,573 acres of tobacco in 1949, as compared with 35,859 acres in 1948, according to the American Embassy in Warsaw. In the prewar, 1934-38, period the country planted an average of 14,990 acres annually.

The Polish Government recently announced that a total of 17,435 acres will be planted to light cigarette types of tobacco, 15,159 acres to other cigarette types, 833 acres to cigar, 764 acres to high quality oriental and 2,382 acres to other types. If the 1949 yield should equal the 1948 average of 1,338 pounds per acre the country would produce 48.9 million pounds of leaf in 1949.

The tobacco acreage planned by provinces is as follows: Lublin, 14,668 acres; Krakow, 7,255 acres; Kielce, 7,057 acres; Pomorze, 4,188 acres; Bialystok, 1,665 acres; Gdansk, 1,223 acres; Olysztyn, 383 acres; and other provinces, 134 acres.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

PANAMA INCREASES RICE PRODUCTION

Panama may produce a record rice crop for its third successive year in 1949-50. The harvest is forecast at 3,900,000 bushels of rough rice (115 million pounds milled) by the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries. This compares with 3,690 million bushels (108 million pounds) in 1948-49 and with the average (1935-36/1939-40) of about 1,600,000 bushels (50 million pounds) annually before the war. The crop is being planted now (June-September) and will be harvested from August to January.

The Ministry advises that Panama's rice consumption in 1950 probably will consist entirely of domestic production. Interest shown by the Government of Panama in expanding rice production during the last 10 years has resulted in an annual output more than double the prewar average. Three agricultural experiment stations located in Panama, Chitre, and David have operated with the advice of foreign agricultural experts.

On account of the sharp increase in the 1948-49 production, rice imports in 1949 are not expected to exceed 5 million pounds. Despite the gradual gain in production in recent years, imports have held above the prewar level. Rice imports in 1948 totaled 11 million pounds compared with 15 million in 1947, and with the 1936-40 average of 7 million pounds a year. These do not include imports from the Panama Canal Zone into Panama, estimated at approximately 5 million pounds a year. The 1948 imports were from El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Ecuador.

The Banco Agro-Pecuario e Industrial to encourage rice production announced in 1947 it would buy all the domestic product at $5.92 per 100 pounds ($6.00 per quintal of 101.4 pounds). To this price has been added the cost of transportation from the farm to the nearest mill, and in addition, an empty sack is given to the farmer for every sack of rice which he sells to the Banco. Milled rice is sold for $12.82 per 100 pounds ($13.00 per quintal). The price to the consumer is 15 cents per pound, for either native or imported rice.

PANAMA: Rice production and imports, 1949
with comparisons

Year	Acreage planted	Yield per acre	Production: Rough	Production: In terms of milled	Imports 1/ 2/	Production plus imports 1/ 2/
	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1935-36/39-40...	50	32.0	1,600	47	7	54
1943-44.......	82	29.3	2,400	70	11	81
1944-45.......	87	29.2	2,544	74	11	85
1945-46.......	101	28.7	2,901	85	7	92
1946-47.......	114	23.4	2,669	78	15	93
1947-48.......	128	23.3	2,987	87	11	98
1948-49.......	134	27.5	3,691	108	5	113

1/ In terms of milled. Do not include imports of around 5 million pounds from Panama Canal Zone. 2/ For calendar year following harvest.

Compiled from official sources.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD TO MARKET BARLEY AND OATS

The Canadian Wheat Board will act as the sole marketing agency for Canada's western-grown barley and oats, beginning August 1, according to an announcement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. This policy means greatly curtailed activity for the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, which will thus be dealing only in rye and flax after August 1.

The move to put the Board in charge of marketing of barley and oats grown in the Prairie Provinces was started early in 1948 when legislation to amend the Wheat Board Act was passed by the Dominion Parliament on March 23, 1948. Control could not become effective, however, until the three Provinces had passed complementary legislation. The required action was taken in the last of these Provinces on April 22, 1949.

While the announcement states that the Board will undertake the marketing of all western-grown barley and oats delivered by producers during the 1949-50 marketing year, further details of the plan have not been released. Details are expected to be known in July, when the Board usually announces its regulations governing marketing of wheat for the coming crop year.

TURKEY EXPECTS BELOW-AVERAGE WHEAT CROP

Prospects point to a considerably below-average wheat crop in Turkey this year, according to a recent report from the American Embassy at Ankara. The relatively unfavorable outlook is based on the expectation of reduced yields on acreage as large or larger than the acreage harvested in 1948. The lower yields are expected primarily because of the increased proportion of spring seeding this year, to make up for small seedings of winter wheat.

Ordinarily about 80 percent of Turkey's wheat acreage is fall-seeded. Only about 50 percent of fall seeding was accomplished last fall, however, as a result of early snows and cold weather which continued throughout the winter. Shortfalls of autumn seeding were made up by increased spring sowings, ending by mid-April, but spring-sown grain cannot be expected to yield as well as fall seedings in this area.

While the winter was severe, winterkill was reported negligible since snow cover was almost continuous throughout the winter. Spring seedings were made under good soil and moisture conditions and ample rains since are said to have resulted in excellent stands. Present prospects for coarse grains, barley, oats, and corn, are reported favorable. If adequate rains continue, crops of these grains may equal or exceed the good crops of 1948.

FATS AND OILS

MEXICO'S FATS AND OILS SUPPLIES ATTAIN RECORD 1/

Total supplies of fats and oils in Mexico during 1949 are expected to reach the record level of 228,600 short tons, approximately 13 percent above 1948 supplies. The increase will result chiefly from a larger domestic production of vegetable oilseeds during 1948 which will be available for consumption in 1949.

This volume of fats and oils will provide a per capita supply in 1949 of 18.7 pounds, higher than in each of the preceding 2 years, but slightly below that of 1946. It is estimated that about 60 percent of the total supplies will consist of vegetable fats and oils and the remainder of animal fats.

MEXICO: Total and per capita annual supplies of fats and oils, 1949 with comparisons

Year	Vegetable fats and oils		Animal fats and oils		Total fats and oils	
	Total supplies	Per capita	Total supplies	Per capita	Total supplies	Per capita
	Short tons	Pounds	Short tons	Pounds	Short tons	Pounds
1945	100,623	9.0	95,092	8.6	195,715	17.6
1946	102,693	9.0	115,023	10.1	217,716	19.1
1947	99,028	8.4	87,826	7.5	186,854	15.9
1948	112,509	9.4	89,139	7.5	201,648	16.9
1949 1/	137,900	11.3	90,719	7.4	228,600	18.7

1/ Preliminary.

American Embassy, Mexico City.

1/ A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Imports will comprise about 7 percent of the total supply available in 1949, approximately the same proportion as in 1948 but considerably below that of previous years. Import requirements during 1949 are estimated at about 16,500 tons, and probably will consist chiefly of lard, tallow, copra, and olive oil. Quantities available for export during 1949 will exceed 1948 shipments and will include approximately 38,580 tons (1,377,900 bushels) of flaxseed, 8,820 tons of peanuts and 2,200 tons of cottonseed oil.

The trend toward the consumption of a larger proportion of vegetable fats and oils which has been apparent in Mexico for the last few years was emphasized in 1948. Last year the intake of vegetable fats and oils represented 56 percent of all fats and oils consumed. Present indications are that in 1949 this proportion will be about 60 percent. The domestic production of vegetable oilseeds which began to expand during the war has continued to increase. This has led to an expansion in the manufacture of edible vegetable oils and hydrogenated shortening, which have served as substitutes for hog lard to an increasing degree.

Production of vegetable shortening in Mexico during 1948 is estimated at approximately 70,550 tons of which approximately 33,000 tons were produced in the Federal District. This compares with an annual production of hog lard within the country of only 35,300 tons. A further increase is expected in vegetable shortening production during 1949, particularly if the new plant in Jalisco starts operating. The capacity of this plant is estimated at from 60 to 100 tons of peanuts per day or the equivalent in other oilseeds.

Up to the end of 1948, the bulk of the vegetable shortening produced in Mexico consisted of "compound lard", a mixture of hydrogenated fats and soft oils. At the present time it is estimated that approximately half of the shortening produced is 100 percent hydrogenated.

Prices of fats and oils, which began to rise in the mid-1940's, continued upward in 1948 after a drop in 1947. Record levels were reached for many of these commodities. Little change occurred in the price situation during the first quarter of 1949, but a general decline has set in since then as a result of larger domestic production and lower prices abroad.

MALAYAN COPRA EXPORTS, FIRST QUARTER, EXCEED 1948 SHIPMENTS

Malayan copra exports for the first quarter of 1949 totaled 16,880 long tons, over 3.5 times the shipments of the corresponding period in 1948. Approximately 92 percent of the total went to European countries, with Norway, Denmark, France, The Netherlands, and Poland being sent the largest quantities. March exports of 3,637 tons were 39 percent below the February figure of 5,916 tons. January-March imports of copra into Malaya amounted to 20,956 tons, of which almost 18,000 tons originated in Indonesia. Imports in March totaled 6,001 tons of copra, about 14 percent less than those of the month before.

MALAYA: Copra exports and imports,
January-March 1949 with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution			
	Average 1935-39	1948 1/	Jan.-Mar. 1948 1/	Jan.-Mar. 1949 1/
Exports				
Czechoslovakia	652	500	-	900
Denmark	2,050	7,453	-	2,428
France	8,578	2,196	199	2,900
Italy	11,322	8,246	607	541
Netherlands	28,956	11,423	422	1,920
Norway	4,703	750	-	3,521
Poland	3,358	6,020	-	1,567
Sweden	1,850	13,738	2,837	900
United Kingdom	57,750	2,081	475	-
Other Europe	49,209	1,480	-	830
Morocco	493	1,873	-	300
Asia	3,977	2,664	-	1,073
Other countries	18,793	617	-	-
Total	191,691	59,041	4,540	16,880
Imports				
British possessions	10,617	5,452	382	3,301
Indonesia	105,500	81,330	18,262	17,560
Other countries	2,134	882	13	95
Total	118,251	87,664	18,657	20,956

1/ Preliminary.

American Consulate General, Singapore.

Coconut oil exports of 11,281 tons for the first 3 months of the current year represented a decrease of 17 percent from the January-March 1948 exports. The largest quantities were shipped to India, Pakistan, Italy, and Egypt. March shipments amounted to 4,670 tons, a 22 percent increase over the February exports of 3,814 tons. Oil imports into Malaya were insignificant.

MALAYA: Coconut oil exports and imports,
January-March 1949 with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country	Coconut oil distribution			
	Average 1935-39	1948 1/	Jan.-Mar. 1948 1/	Jan.-Mar. 1949 1/
Exports				
France	100	2,194	650	738
Italy	20	8,149	1,525	1,682
Netherlands	822	3,488	600	575
Sweden	185	2,200	2,200	-
United Kingdom	8,857	3,333	2,753	-
Other Europe	290	4,245	700	933
Burma	3,908	3,827	320	59
Hong Kong	1,391	8,033	2,804	543
India	22,500	301	-	2,094
Indonesia	3,119	363	70	-
Iraq	-	937	77	715
Pakistan	-	2,112	-	1,898
Other Asia	1,772	485	187	783
Egypt	3,295	3,822	1,228	1,096
Other countries	850	4,787	415	165
Total	47,109	48,276	13,529	11,281
Imports				
British possessions	16	175	97	11
Indonesia	328	2,856	1,548	13
Other countries	229	-	-	-
Total	573	3,031	1,645	24

1/ Preliminary.

American Consulate General, Singapore.

U. S. EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED FATS, OILS, AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds during January-April 1949 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds,
January-April 1949 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1947	1948 1/	January-April	
					1948 1/	1949 1/
Soybeans.............	1,000 bu.	2/ 4,793	2,505	6,497	1,752	11,232
Soybean oil						
Refined............	1,000 lbs.	3/ 6,467	38,883	41,266	19,482	58,321
Crude..............	" "		68,395	41,769	23,321	42,606
Coconut oil	" "					
Refined............	" "	3,789	5,491	9,273	6,488	1,788
Crude..............	" "	10,442	52,427	9,820	5,345	2,676
Cottonseed oil						
Refined............	" "	4,793	10,977	22,627	17,535	30,149
Crude..............	" "	1,515	901	10,094	1,963	14,285
Flaxseed.............	1,000 bu.	3/	16	1,650	14	2,142
Linseed oil..........	1,000 lbs.	1,280	9,855	29,636	4,885	2,369
Peanuts						
Shelled............	" "	3/ 452	212,253	458,655	204,442	192,560
Not shelled........	" "		18,681	10,594	3,239	2,772
Peanut oil, refined..	" "	4/ 325	1,579	685	620	6,924
Cooking fats.........	" "	2,111	3,594	3,522	1,048	1,816
Lard.................	" "	165,636	380,735	271,835	112,360	224,246
Oleomargarine........	" "	180	19,954	3,408	2,137	874
Tallow						
Edible.............	" "	3/ 1,651	601	1,377	1,164	6,689
Inedible...........	" "		54,553	67,995	8,322	116,787

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Average of less than 5 years.
3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation.
4/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

U. S. IMPORTS OF SPECIFIED VEGETABLE OIL AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States imports of specified vegetable oils and oilseeds during January-April 1949 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Imports 1/ of specified oils and oilseeds, January-April 1949 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1947	1948 2/	January-April	
					1948 2/	1949 2/
Babassu kernels.....	1,000 lbs.	3/	22,233	61,929	25,896	29,562
Babassu oil.........	" "	4/ 346	1,747	3,082	1,223	1,468
Castor-beans........	" "	132,924	276,807	302,511	109,366	112,167
Castor oil..........	" "	226	6,595	2,441	1,108	1,611
Flaxseed............	" bu.	18,470	282	1,066	14	138
Linseed oil.........	" lbs.	713	117,326	3,959	2,799	1,002
Copra...............	Short tons	230,000	677,660	447,743	197,575	91,144
Coconut oil.........	1,000 lbs.	342,717	23,559	109,096	32,733	27,125
Oiticica oil........	" "	4/ 7,673	8,471	17,558	4,343	4,469
Olive oil						
Edible............	" "	62,811	11,250	36,093	11,308	7,166
Inedible..........	" "	35,448	248	9,775	6,229	64
Palm oil............	" "	321,482	63,212	63,328	17,736	22,801
Sesame seed.........	" "	58,425	9,479	22,606	4,495	4,626
Tea-seed oil........	" "	13,159	6,377	3,601	542	36
Tucum kernels.......	" "	5/ 9,810	16,887	11,619	7,454	9,921
Tung oil............	" "	123,190	121,564	133,282	47,158	24,317

1/ Imports for consumption.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation.
4/ Average of less than 5 years.
5/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

MARGARINE IN CANADA [1]

The legal status of margarine in Canada, as well as its acceptance by consumers is becoming more clearly defined, according to the American Embassy, Ottawa. The Canadian Supreme Court on December 14, 1948, rendered its long-awaited decision on the validity on that section of the Dairy Industry Act which contains the prohibition against the importation, manufacture, sale or possession for sale of all butter substitutes.

The Court's decision was that the prohibition on importation was within the power of Parliament but that the prohibition on the manufacture and sale of butter substitutes was not. The manufacture and sale of margarine began immediately in Canada. There was considerable talk of appeal of the decision to the Privy Council in London, but neither the Canadian Government nor the Canadian Federation of Agriculture appealed.

Gradually it has been accepted that the Supreme Court's decision will stand. The importation of margarine or other substitutes for butter into Canada remains prohibited by Dominion Statute (Dairy Industry Act). Meantime the manufacture of margarine in Canada has rapidly increased. Starting from no production at the beginning of the year, output for the first 4 months of 1949 totaled 18 million pounds (see table).

CANADA: Margarine production by months, 1949*

MONTH	Production (1,000 pounds)
January	1,030
February	3,354
March	7,331
April	6,354
Total	18,069

* Newfoundland not included.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Total stocks of margarine as of May 1, 1949, amounted to 948,000 pounds. Stocks by regions were: Maritime 65,000, Ontario 683,000, Manitoba 89,000, Saskatchewan 62,000, Alberta 23,000, and British Columbia 26,000.

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[1] A more extensive statement which includes a summary of provincial legislation that has been enacted recently regulating the manufacture and sale of margarine in the various provinces is contained in Foreign Agriculture Circular, FFO-11-49, obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

U. K. HERRING OIL PRODUCTION INCREASES

The United Kingdom, with currently available plant facilities, will be able to produce over 3,000 short tons of herring oil in 1949 if the herring catch is sufficient. Production in 1948 was 1,100 tons and in 1947 amounted to about 725 tons. The Herring Industry Board of the United Kingdom has a long-term plan for the development of the industry and its goal is to produce 22,500 tons of edible oil and about 40,000 tons of protein feeds annually within the next 4 to 5 years. Annual production of herring oil in the prewar period, 1934-38, probably did not amount to more than 100 or 200 tons. Construction of herring oil and meal production plants at the herring ports began a little over a year ago and it is expected that the herring catch to be used in the production of oil and meal will increase each year.

The chief uses of herring oil are in margarine and fish canning utilizing the first-grade product, while the lower grades are used in the manufacture of such products as leather dressing, candle making, paint and linoleum.

WHALE OIL CIRCULAR AVALIABLE

Foreign Agriculture Circular FFO-10-49, containing more detailed information regarding whale oil production and trade (Foreign Crops and Markets, May 30, 1949) is now obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

BRITISH WEST INDIES' 1948-49 CACAO PRODUCTION LOWER

Cacao production in the British West Indies is now expected to total 24.6 million pounds in the 1948-49 crop year. This is about 4.0 million pounds below the bumper 1947-48 harvest, but, with the exception of the last crop, it is the largest production since 1938. However, it is only a little more than half the size of the annual average prewar, 1935-39, harvest of 45.9 million pounds.

The biggest decrease is forecast for Trinidad and Tobago, where the 1948-49 crop is predicted at 12.5 million pounds, 5.4 million pounds below the bumper crop last year. The principal reason given for this reduction was the unusual dry weather in November 1948, which caused the small fruit to dry and drop off the trees, leaving only the larger fruit to mature. Jamaica is expected to increase its production from 4.2 million pounds in 1947-48 to 5.8 million pounds in 1948-49, principally as the result of fine growing weather during the flowering season. Jamaica's winter cacao crop amounted to 2.6 million pounds, and the spring crop is forecast at 3.2 million pounds. Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominica, and St. Vincent are expected to produce about the same amount of cacao in the 1948-49 crop year as they did in 1947-48.

BRITISH WEST INDIES: Estimated production of cacao beans in 1948-49, with comparisons.

Production Areas	Average 1935-39 1/	1947-48 2/	1948-49 3/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Dominica	315	300	300
Grenada	8,536	5,250	5,000
Jamaica	4,750	4,200	5,800
St. Lucia	608	850	850
St. Vincent	55	30	15
Trinidad & Tobago	31,636	17,900	12,500
Total	45,900	28,530	24,565

1/ Exports. 2/ Revised. 3/ Forecast.

Official statistics and U. S. Foreign Service reports.

MADAGASCAR'S 1949 COFFEE PRODUCTION HIGHER

The 1949 coffee crop in Madagascar is currently forecast at 450,000 bags, an increase of more than 40 percent over the 1948 harvest of 317,000 bags, according to the American Consulate, Tananarive. The prewar, 1935-39, annual average coffee production in Madagascar was 537,000 bags.

One of the principal reasons for the expected increase in 1949 is that the nationalist rebellion which broke out in 1947 was completely quelled by the end of 1948, and many native coffee planters have resumed their normal operations after more than a year of reduced activity. Another important reason is the higher official export prices which will be paid for the 1949 crop. Local coffee growers, who had long complained that official export prices were too low in relation to other commodities, were given two increases during 1948 which raised f.o.b. prices more than 150 percent.

At present, exports of coffee from Madagascar are restricted by government decree to France and French territories, although exports to foreign countries of about 1,700 bags was recently authorized. The national interest in restricting the exportation of coffee to France and French territories is to save foreign currency which France would have to spend if she were to purchase her coffee from Latin America or other non-French areas.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S 1948-49 CACAO PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN

The forecast of cacao production in the Dominican Republic for the 1948-49 crop year has been revised downward to 42 million pounds from an earlier forecast of 60 million pounds, according to the American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo.

The Dominican Republic produced 62 million pounds of cacao in 1947-48 and an annual average of 54 million pounds in the prewar period from 1935 to 1939. Sixteen million pounds of cacao were harvested from the 1948-49 winter crop (October to February), about the same amount as was harvested from the previous winter crop. Present indications are for a spring cacao harvest (March to June) of 26 million pounds, compared with a spring harvest a year ago of 46 million pounds. The principal reason given for the smaller crop this season was an excessive amount of rain during the critical spring flowering and fruiting periods.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

COTTON CONSUMPTION RISES IN NORWAY [1]

Cotton consumption in Norway has increased to a rate of about 17,000 bales annually and is now 25 percent above the prewar level. The goal for the calendar year 1949 has been set at 23,000 bales or an increase of 35 percent over 1948.

Shortage of labor has been the principal factor limiting the expansion of textile production. A number of mills have been unable to secure sufficient labor to run more than 1 shift. However, a number of mills have been able to operate 2 shifts, and the industry probably averages about 1½ shifts per day. If sufficient labor could be obtained cotton consumption would undoubtedly show a considerable increase.

The cotton industry reported 61,802 spindles [2] and 2,645 looms in use on March 1, 1949. This is an increase of about 20 percent over the number in 1941.

Imports of textile machinery before the war were limited and during the war were non-existent. The exchange shortage has prevented postwar importations of equipment on the scale needed.

Some of the mills possess quite modern equipment, but in general, the textile machinery is not up to date. A portion of the spinning machinery in particular is in bad condition. This is due in part to the extremely inferior used yarn that was respun during the war. There is some shortage of spare parts, especially in the knitting industry where many of the machines are of German make and no longer manufactured.

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[1] Based on a report by John H. Clagett, Third Secretary, American Embassy, Oslo.
[2] Includes spindles used for turning and doubling.

The government has plans for the complete modernization of the industry but this program will take considerable time. Norway imports 75 to 80 percent of its cotton textile requirements. The cutting off of these imports and the deprivation suffered during the 2 world wars has convinced Norway of the need for a cotton textile industry.

The textile industry, in common with nearly all Norwegian industry, is closely controlled by the government. The Ministry of Supply estimates the various requirements of raw materials, machinery and other needed items. Applications for import licenses must be approved by the Import-Export Directorate. The Price Directorate sets prices. The Ministry of Supply apportions raw materials to the various factories.

All textile products are rationed in Norway and supplies for the domestic market have been restricted to about 85 percent of the prewar level. The principal factor affecting consumption of cotton textiles in Norway is the continuing shortage of foreign exchange and the resulting necessity of budgeting foreign expenditures very carefully. This currency situation has also led to the bilateral trade agreement program, with the attendant practice of not buying where price, quality and need direct, but where Norway's own export items may be exchanged for usable commodities without the expenditure of foreign exchange.

Norway has been forced to restrict imports to about 80 percent of the prewar level. This has been partially offset by increased imports of raw material and increased production of cotton textiles. Brazil has been the chief source of raw cotton supplies in the past few seasons with the United States, Peru, and India supplying practically all the remainder. In the 1947-48 season Brazil supplied 50 percent of Norway's imports and the United States supplied only 23 percent.

However, during the current season Norway has secured very little cotton from Brazil and imports from the United States have been greatly increased. From August 1, 1948 to April 30, 1949, the United States has exported 10,600 bales to Norway as compared to only 2,830 bales during the entire 1947-48 season.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted as current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good............	6-9	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	45.50	37.93
Ashmouni, F.G.F...........	"	"	"	42.75	35.64
Karnak, Good..............	"	"	"	75.35	62.82
Karnak, F.G.F.............	"	"	"	(not	quoted)
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine..............	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	620.00	23.86
Broach, Fine..............	"	"	"	650.00	25.01
Karachi		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....	6-7	82.28 lbs.	"	86.00	31.53
289F Sind, S.G., Fine.....	"	"	"	92.50	33.91
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine...	"	"	"	95.00	34.83
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B....................	6-9	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1/ 4000.00	54.02
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5...........	6-8	101.4 lbs.	Sol	(not	quoted)
Pima, Type 1..............	"	"	"	440.00	43.11
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4..............	6-9	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	205.00	33.73
Sertao, Type 5............	"	"	"	2/ 190.00	31.26
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.........	"	"	"	192.00	31.59
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	197.00	23.63
Houston-Galveston-New					
Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"...	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	32.58

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U. S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U. S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Nominal.

2/ Price omitted from last week's table: Recife, June 2, 1949, in cruzeiros per arroba with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Sertao, Type 5, 190.00 (31.26).

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

CANADIAN EGG PRODUCTION DROPS [1]

Canadian egg production during the first quarter of 1949 was about 14 percent less than a year earlier when 111,006,000 dozen were produced. The smaller output was due mainly to an 18 percent decline in the number of layers for the same period. During the quarter, there were approximately 94,415,600 dozen eggs sold or used by the producers. It is indicated that 73,687,000 dozen went into regular market channels for consumption; another 5,241,800 dozen were used for hatching; and 15,496,800 dozen were consumed by producers.

Canadian egg exports during the first quarter of 1949 were much lower than during the first quarter of 1948, partially because the 1949 Canadian contract with the United Kingdom does not provide for the export of fresh eggs in the shell and there have been only small shipments of frozen eggs and dried egg powder. Shipments of shell eggs to Alaska during this period were considerably heavier than in the past few years and exports to the United States increased from practically none in recent years to 300,000 dozen.

The Special Products Board quota system for egg exports to the United States which started February 1 permits each producer to sell to this country such quantities as will not exceed 10 percent of his deliveries to the Board to be applied toward the United Kingdom contract. Only very recently have the United States prices been favorable enough to attract large-scale imports. This, however, may be only a temporary situation.

Dressed poultry meat exports for the first quarter were only 2,657,000 pounds in 1949, compared to 6,795,000 pounds for the similar period last year. Exports of live poultry were down 29 percent from the 994,000 exported during the first quarter of 1948. In view of current interest, poultry meat exports to the United States are likely to increase later in the year.

BUTTER SHORTAGE IN VENEZUELA

The sharp decrease in Venezuelan butter production, and domestic quota restrictions which require importers to take 240 units of national butter for each 100 units imported, has caused a temporary shortage. It is reported that some wholesalers are trying to build up reserves against possible price rises which may result from such shortages. The National Food Commission has been requested by importers to increase the quantity of imported butter to equal the amount of national product absorbed in attempts to ease the situation.

Dairymen hope to maintain the local quotas since they feel it will encourage the development of a larger dairy industry and thus prepare for a time when Venezuelan oil exports will bring in fewer United States dollars and make imports hard to obtain.

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[1] Based largely on report from Francis A. Flood, American Embassy, Ottawa.

DANISH HOG NUMBERS INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY

Hog numbers in Denmark, according to the May 7 census, showed substantial gains in all classes over a year ago. The number of suckling pigs, however, is now 124 percent larger than in May of last year, bred sows about 90 percent, pigs for slaughter 61 percent, and total numbers 78 percent. These increases reflect the much improved feed situation, resulting from favorable pastures and the good crops harvested in 1948, and ECA assistance in purchases of imported feeds. At the present rate of recovery, it can be assumed that Danish bacon will be regaining its importance in export trade.

DENMARK: Hog numbers 1/ (entire country including parishes and boroughs), May 7, 1949, with comparisons

Date	SOWS Bred	SOWS Total	Suckling pigs	Pigs and slaughter hogs	Total 2/
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
February 7, 1948	88	136	219	1,107	1,469
March 20, 1948	111	152	244	985	1,388
May 1, 1948	126	171	258	880	1,317
February 12, 1949	200	285	509	1,291	2,094
March 26, 1949	137	314	528	1,348	2,200
May 7, 1949	240	340	579	1,419	2,349

1/ Periodic Danish hog censuses beginning February 8, 1947, represent returns for the whole country, including parishes and boroughs. 2/ Includes boars.

Compiled from official sources.

ARGENTINE SHEEP NUMBERS SHOW SIGNS OF INCREASE 1/

A decrease in the rate of liquidation of ewes and the limited supply of breeding stock indicate that the downward trend in sheep numbers in Argentina may be leveling off.

Receipts of sheep in the Avellaneda market for the first quarter of 1949 decreased over 900,000 head, about 45 percent lower, compared with the same period in 1948. Further analysis of the market receipts shows that only 11 percent of total entries for this period were classed as ewes, compared to 17 percent and 18 percent for 1947 and 1948 respectively. Representatives of purebred associations state that there is a great demand for the limited offerings of purebred animals.

Strong wool prices, coupled with increased future meat shipments to the United Kingdom, may provide the necessary incentive for the maintaining of flocks at present levels and possibly increasing them.

1/ Based on a report from George L. Dietz, American Embassy, Buenos Aires.

LATE NEWS

(Continued from Page 560)

The first estimate of small fruit production in British Columbia is indicated to be lighter than the 1948 crop, with a decrease of 23 percent for strawberries, 28 percent for raspberries, and 45 percent for loganberries.

Apple prospects are: On Vancouver Island, a fair set of fruit; Lower Mainland, good prospects; southern Okanagan, the crop will equal the 1948 yield and in the Creston district prospects are for a heavy crop.

The pear crop on Vancouver Island is expected to be of normal size, but in the southern Okanagan area fruit did not set well. The plum crop is expected to be fair in Vancouver Island. Prospects are good on Lower Mainland; Alighter crop is in prospect in the upper Okanagan district. The peach crop in the central Okanagan district is indicated to be fair but in the southern end of the valley the crop suffered from winter injury. The cherry crop probably will be fair.

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Cuban imports of lard and vegetable oils were smaller in May than in the previous month because stocks held by importers as of April 30 were excessive. It is estimated that in the first 5 months of 1949 about 50 million pounds of lard had been imported into Cuba compared with a total of 60 to 70 million pounds per year in the 1943-48 period.

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Cuban beef supplies remained seasonally low during May at approximately the level of a year earlier. Cattle and meat prices were generally 10 to 15 percent above established ceilings; however, improved pastures and cattle will probably provide ample meat at no more than ceiling prices in late June.

Excellent pastures which caused milk production to increase 70 to 80 percent over April levels increased the amounts of milk used for most dairy products and endangered their price levels. Wholesale butter prices fell from $1.00 to $1.05 to $0.90 to $0.95 per pound. Cuba has decreased imports of dairy products and the duty exemption on condensed milk which expired May 15 was not renewed.

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A Uruguayan decree has been issued freezing prices on most articles of prime necessity. Prices on all such articles prevailing on April 25, 1949 cannot be increased. In approximately 90 days, the National Council of Subsistence and Price Control will establish ceiling prices for these articles and submit them to the Executive Power for approval. The Council is also to study costs of food, clothes and recommended price reductions. Poultry, eggs, milk and butter are included on the extensive list of products to be controlled.

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The food price index of Belgrade rose slightly in April, mainly due to considerable rise in chicken and egg prices.

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Farmers in Sweden, during recent price negotiations, demanded an increase of about 1.1 cents per gallon in the price of milk but the Government is reluctant to fix prices before this fall. It is indicated that the support prices for eggs are likely to be reduced about 6 cents per pound.

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Egypt has agreed to purchase 3.7 million bushels of wheat from the U.S.S.R., according to the American Embassy in Cairo. It is reported that one-half of the purchased quantity is to be delivered by June and the remaining half by November. This transaction brings reported sales or commitments of wheat by the U.S.S.R. during the current marketing season to a total of approximately 55 million bushels. A sizable portion of this quantity will not be moved during the 1948-49 crop year which ends June 30.

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Probable rice exports from Brazil during 1949 are estimated at 120 million pounds, rather than the 200 million pounds forecast earlier in the season, according to Dr. J. Norman Efferson who is studying rice production and marketing in Latin America under the Research and Marketing Act program. Record Brazilian rice exports in 1947 amounted to 546 million pounds, and deliveries in 1948 totaled 456 million. The decrease in availabilities is due to: (1) a drop in production as the result of a prolonged dry spell during the growing season; and (2) the prohibition of exports by the Government until supplies are reserved to meet 1949 requirements.

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